(e) Nandla village has already been connected by Badiara Nandla road under PMGSY. Magwani village has also been covered by the above road as the Magwani village is only at a horizontal distance of 100 metre from Badiara Nandla road.

Magwani Nandla link road has been constructed up to a length of 1.00 Km out of 1.500 Km under MPLAD funds.

Extension of NREGA across the country

603. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) across the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of financial aid reserved for poverty schemes and water conservation during the next 2 years for the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NREGA was launched in 200 select districts on 2.2.2006. The Act was extended to 130 additional districts during the year 2007-08 and has been extended to all the remaining rural areas of the country with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) NREGA is demand driven and not allocation based programme. Annual provisions are made in the budget at central level for implementation of the Act on the basis of projected labour demand during the year. As such funds are not reserved for any of the permissible activity under the NREG Act.

Monitoring of rural development projects

604. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system of regular monitoring and vigilance of various projects work under rural development; and

(b) if so, the details of reports of such work of 2007-08 in the district of Barpeta, Bongaigaon and Chirang in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the Programmes, including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Level, with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, and National Level Monitors.

As per the information received from the Government of Assam, the State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (V&MC) meeting was held on 14.2.2008 during the year 2007-08. The District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings were held in Bongaigaon District on 27.7.2007 and 20.8.2008. In Barpeta District the V&MC has been held on 30.8.2008.